MARVEL

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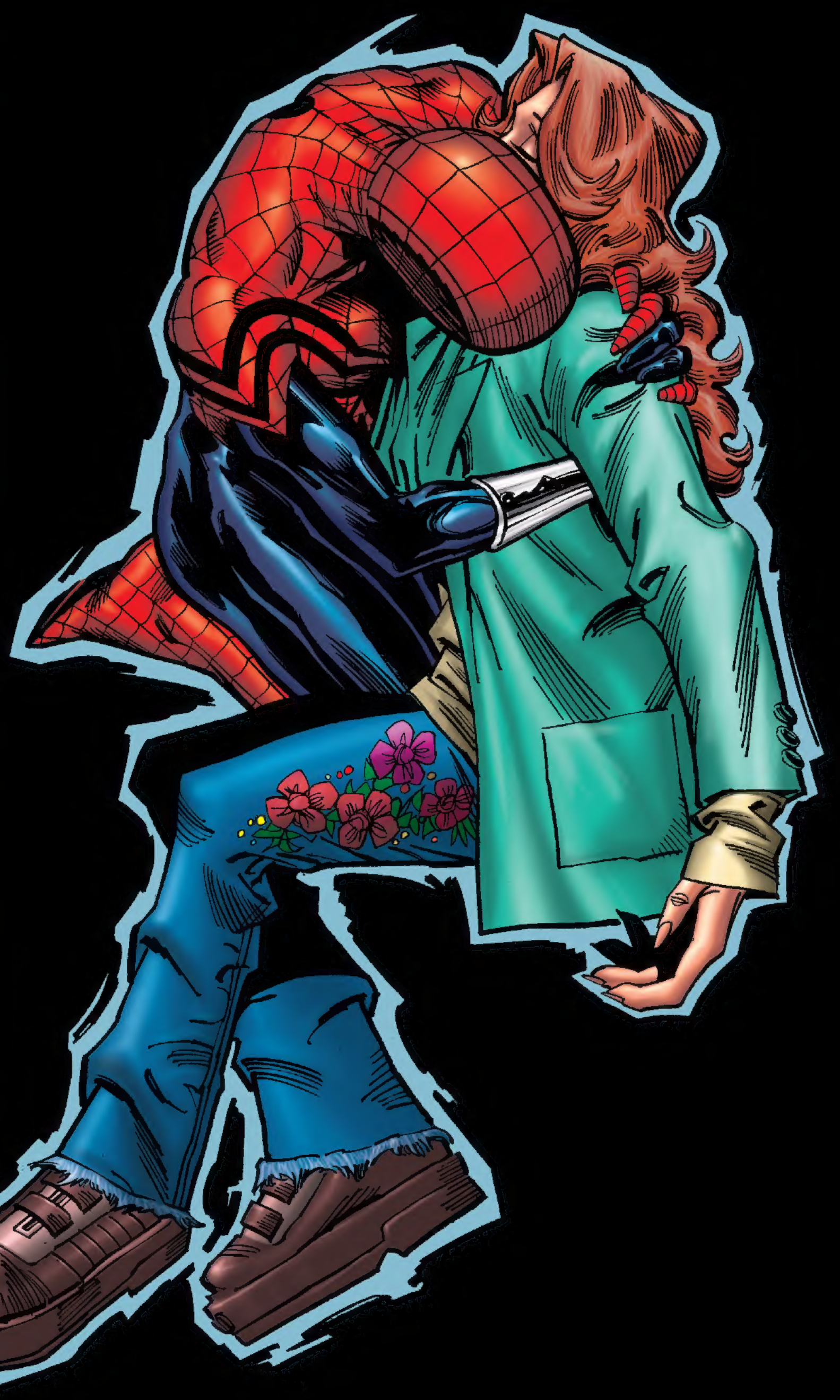
THE DAUGHTER OF SPIDER-MAN®

SPIDER-GIRL®

THE GIRL WHO FELL TO EARTH



The daughter of the original Spider-Man, May "Mayday" Parker has inherited her father's amazing powers. Possessing the proportionate strength, speed, and agility of a spider, as well as the ability to cling to walls, she now follows in his web-lines! Stan Lee presents…

SPIDER-GIRL

PREVIOUSLY

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While the adult members of the **Fantastic Five** are away on a mission to the Negative Zone, **Spider-Girl** teams up with their children against **Apox**, the cosmically-powered Omega Skrull.

A few days later, she is injured in battle when she joins with the new **Avengers** and a host of others to prevent **Loki**, the Asgardian god of evil, from ending the modern **Age of Heroes.**

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THE GIRL WHO FELL TO EARTH

Your name is *May "Mayday" Parker*, and you are the daughter of *Spider-Man*.

It's been a rather hectic couple of weeks.

After helping the *Fantastic Five* tame a cosmically-powered super-skrull--

--you barely survived the evil machinations of hero-hating immortal, Loki.

You're one of the lucky ones.

Aside from the fact that you actually got to use "machinations" in a sentence, you only ended up with a broken arm.

Over a dozen others are still in intensive care.

After malingering at home for a few days, you're finally ready to return to school and resume your normal activities, but...

MMOMMM!

Have you seen my Spider-Girl costume? I can't find it anywhere!

*A fact you already know if you've read **Last Hero Standing!***
--Motivating Molly

Please tell me you're *joking.*

I thought we agreed there wouldn't be any web-swinging until that arm heals.

I...I *know*...but I should still carry my costume in case of an emergency.

Forget it! You're grounded for the duration.

Besides, that spider-suit wasn't even fit for the rag bag.

THE REDEMPTION TRUTH

It was barely hanging together after your last battle--

--so I *burned* it.

Y-you... *what?*

I couldn't put it out for the trash man to find, *could I?*

I...I don't want to talk about this now, May.

You and your father were almost killed in that final battle.

I think the family could use a little break from the whole spider-thing.

Uhhhhh...

Yeah.

Sure.

You know the terrible toll being a super hero takes on you--

--but you never realized how much it also hurts the people you love.

You're haunted by the expression on your mother's face for the entire school day, and then...

I'm very disappointed, Miss Parker.

You should have used your time off to catch up on your studies, young lady--

--but you were unprepared for class today.

I...I'm sorry, Mrs. Winterhalter. It won't happen again.

I should hope not. You used to be one of Midtown High's prize students, but your grades are slipping.

I know I can make up all the work I've missed if you'll just give me another chance.

Very well, but I expect results.

I do not suffer fools or slackers in my class.

As if saving the world wasn't enough pressure--

--you need to hit the books and bolster your GPA.

You okay, Mayday? I know how I felt every time Winterhalter ripped into me.

She must be like a hundred years old.

How long has she been with the school, anyway?

I'm not sure, Davida--

--but I think she actually taught my dad.

Ahhhh, the never-ending *circle of life.*

I've been meaning to ask you about the broken wing.

You never even mentioned it when you called and said you were ditching school for a few days.

I just assumed you were taking some mental health days.

I'm sure you heard that the *Hulk* went berserk last week.

My dad and I were downtown when it happened, and a crowd of panicked civilians trampled us.

The Hulk, huh?

I think I heard my parents talking about him, but I didn't really pay too much attention.

How's your dad?

He'll be fine... except for his artificial leg, which was broken in the stampede.

Hoo-boy! You could have been killed in that battle, and it barely registered on Davida's radar.

Maybe your mother is right, and it's time to reassess this whole hero thing.

Heyyyy! What's up with ***that?***

Why are those cops questioning our assistant principal?

I'm surprised you haven't heard the news.

I...I didn't notice you standing there, Meagyn.

No one ever does.

Odd how ***Meagyn Brady*** always manages to sneak up on you-- ***spider-sense*** and all!

The police are looking for ***Howard Kavanagh.*** Seems he sent two students to the hospital.

Oh, God!

You knew he was abusing his girlfriend ***Sandra Healy***--

--and tried to convince them both to get counseling.

You failed.

Sandra's probably one of his victims.

But who is-- OH, NO!
I'll KILL him!
Leave him to the police, Moose!
You don't want to be messing with Kavanagh. The guy's -unnn- dangerous.
So am I!
The little freak's gonna pay for what he did to Courtney.
Nobody lays hands on my girlfriend.
Is it true, Brad?
Did Howard really hurt Courtney?
Yeah, but that's not even the worst part.
The police have already talked to Howard's parents--
--and they think he might have stolen his dad's gun.
I gotta stop Moose before he gets himself killed--
--or does something he'll regret for the rest of his life.
How could things have gotten so far out of control?
You got a minute, May?
I was hoping we could get together for a coffee or something.
Huh--?!
Some other time, Chris. I'm kinda busy right now.
You were only out of school for a few days.
Uhhhh...
Okay.
Some things never change.
You've brushed Chris Jarkoer off to fight symbiotes and Skrulls--
--but this time you're facing a different kind of monster.

You and Davida skip your final classes and race to *Midtown Medical Center*...

Honest, guys...

I look a lot worse than I feel.

The doctors just want to observe me for a few days and run some tests.

We ran into your parents downstairs, Court. They were leaving to give a statement to the police.

Any idea why the nutjob went after you?

I guess it was because I was trying to help Sandra.

She told me about her problems with Howard--

--about how he was slapping her around and stuff.

You knew Kavanagh was dangerous--

--and should have found a way to stop him.

Sandra finally decided to break up with him, but he couldn't accept it.

H-he cornered us on the way home from school yesterday and...and...

He hit us--

--and hit us--

--and he just wouldn't stop.

I...I am going to find that miserable creep...and rip his arms off.

Attitudes like that only exacerbate the problem, Parker.

The real goal should be to end the *circle of violence.*

Caitlan--I didn't expect to see you here.

Like I'm really not going to visit my newest volunteer.

I seem to know everyone here except for you, young lady. I'm *Caitlan Leiber,* one of the counselors over at *St. Andrews.*

Davida Kirby. It's a pleasure to meet you.

Where you been keeping yourself, Parker? We miss you at St. Andrews.

I hope you're not avoiding us because of that arm...

Relax, Caitlan! No one is abusing me.

Am I missing something? What is *St. Andrews,* anyway?

Aside from being my favorite subject, it's also a women's shelter--

--a safe haven where victims of abuse can get the help and counseling they need.

Okaaaaay, maybe I'm a little dense, but I don't understand how this relates to Sandra and Howard.

It's not like they're married or anything.

They're just dating. They can split up if things aren't working out.

I'm afraid logic doesn't always apply to human relationships.

The heart wants what it wants.

While I won't breach any client's confidentiality, I can tell you that it has been estimated that nearly one-third of all women under twenty have suffered some form of dating violence.

The abuse extends across every socioeconomic, ethnic and religious line.

Jealousy, possessiveness, threats and physical violence are used to diminish the victim's independence--

--and isolate her from her friends and family.

Like many battered women, teenage victims only want the violence to end, but still hope to continue the relationship.

Yeah, that's kind of been Sandra's problem.

I...I can't believe this was happening... right under my nose.

How could I have been so blind?

Many victims feel guilty or responsible for the abuse and try to cover or make excuses for their boyfriends.

If you're really interested, you can stop by St. Andrews or any other women's shelter. They have people there who you can talk to...and who will listen, too.

I'm going to look in on Sandra.

I think I'll join you.

You sure you don't want to discuss that arm, Parker?

No one is victimizing me, Caitlan. ***Honest!*** I'm just a little accident-prone.

Abuse can be as blatant as a black eye or as subtle as a disapproving glance.

I can defend myself-- ***trust me!***

Maybe, but we all feel overwhelmed on occasion--

--and we can't always lash out at the things that really make us feel helpless.

Oh, no! Sandra's parents are at it again...

This is all your fault, Joyce, because you insisted on working full-time.

I-it's not like I had a choice, Gus.

So you're blaming ***me?!***

Joyce! Gus! I want you to meet May Parker. She goes to school with Sandra.

Sandra mentioned you. She said you were trying to help her.

I...I wish I could have done more.

You still ***can.***

Just help me get my hands on the maniac who hurt my little girl--

--so that I can show him what a ***real beating*** feels like.

GUS

Gus is afraid the boy will lawyer up and escape punishment.

Anything's possible, but a beating will only perpetuate the *circle of violence.*

You lashed out at Howard once before--

--and later felt guilty about it.

Violence didn't stop him.

Neither did counseling.

What's the *solution?*

Is there a solution?

I need to talk to Joyce.

Why don't you see how Sandra's doing?

Okay, I'll...

Oh, God!

P-please don't say I told you so...

Y-You kept trying to warn me about Howard.

I wouldn't listen.

I *couldn't* listen.

H-he could be so *attentive* at times.

so *loving.*

A-and he was so *sorry* every time he yelled at me--

--or *hit* me.

It's almost funny how things work out. You can get hit over the head 47,000 times and keep coming back for more--

--but something finally breaks inside you the 47,001st time.

He would beg my forgiveness and promise he'd never do it again.

I'm finally ***done.***

H-how's Courtney?

She'll eventually be as good as new... and so will you.

Sandra...

Do you know where I can find Howard?

Life can be so very complicated.

Part of you still wants to smash Howard.

Another part knows that would only make things worse.

Still another is determined to stop Sandra's dad and Moose from doing exactly what *you* still want to do.

Sandra used to think that Howard loved her.

There's a good chance he did, too.

Why did things go bad?

What drives someone like Howard?

What triggers his violence?

Is it fear?

Frustration?

How do you truly end the *circle of violence?*

Today is hardly the day for a stroll in *Midtown Park.*

But this is where Howard and Sandra usually met.

It was their special spot, the place where they often made plans for the future.

That's far enough.

Don't come any closer!

I...I have a *gun.*

Put it down, Howard...and come with me.

Why?

So that I can go to jail?

Not going to happen!

I know I screwed up bad. ***Real bad!*** My dad's going to go ballistic, and Sandra will never take me back now.

There's only one way out for me, Parker.

That'll teach Sandra a ***lesson*** she'll never forget.

She'll blame herself, and ***she SHOULD.***

It's not my fault that I love her so much.

You people don't understand ***real love.***

She never should have broken up with me.

KBAM! KBAM!

We would have lived happily ever after if people like you had just left us alone.

But you had to *interfere!*

Had to put crazy ideas in her head!

You're one sick puppy, Howard.

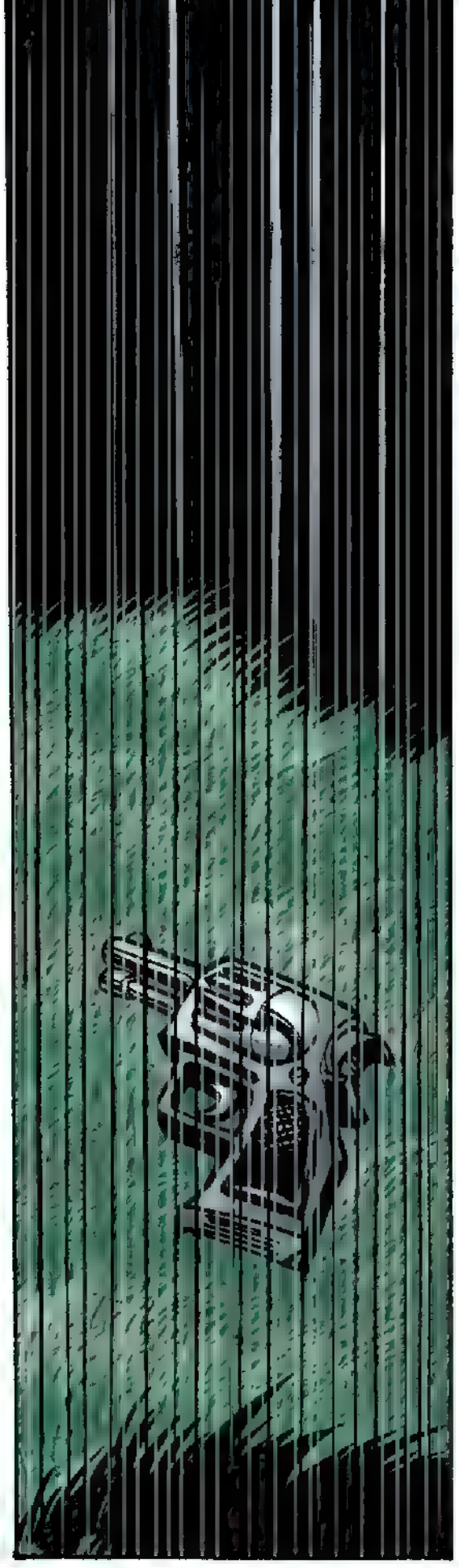
I may not be qualified to *treat* you--

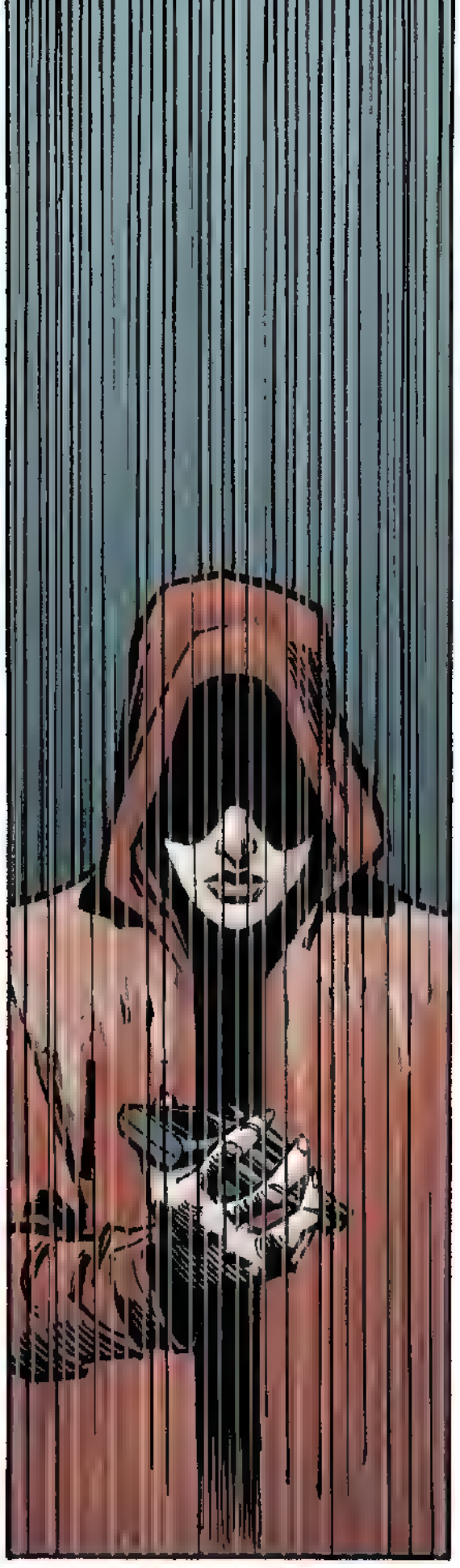
--But I can certainly STOP you!

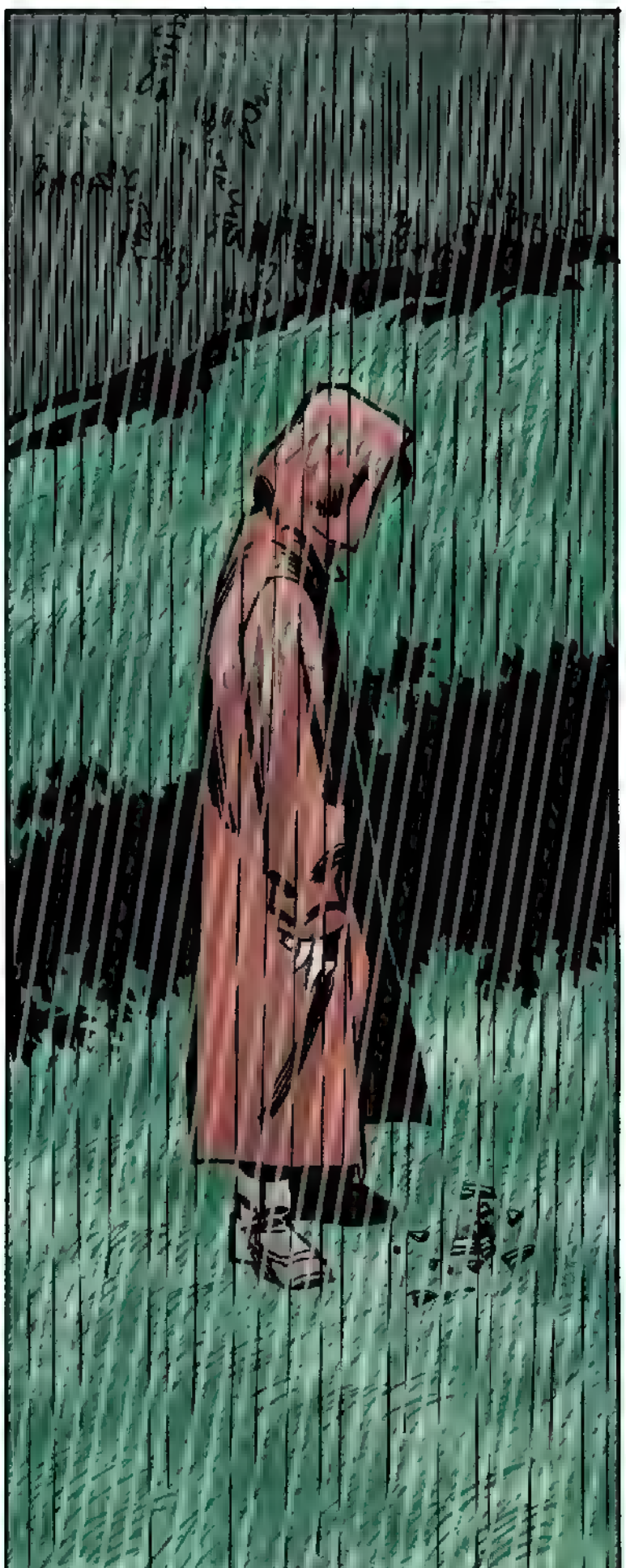
I CAN--

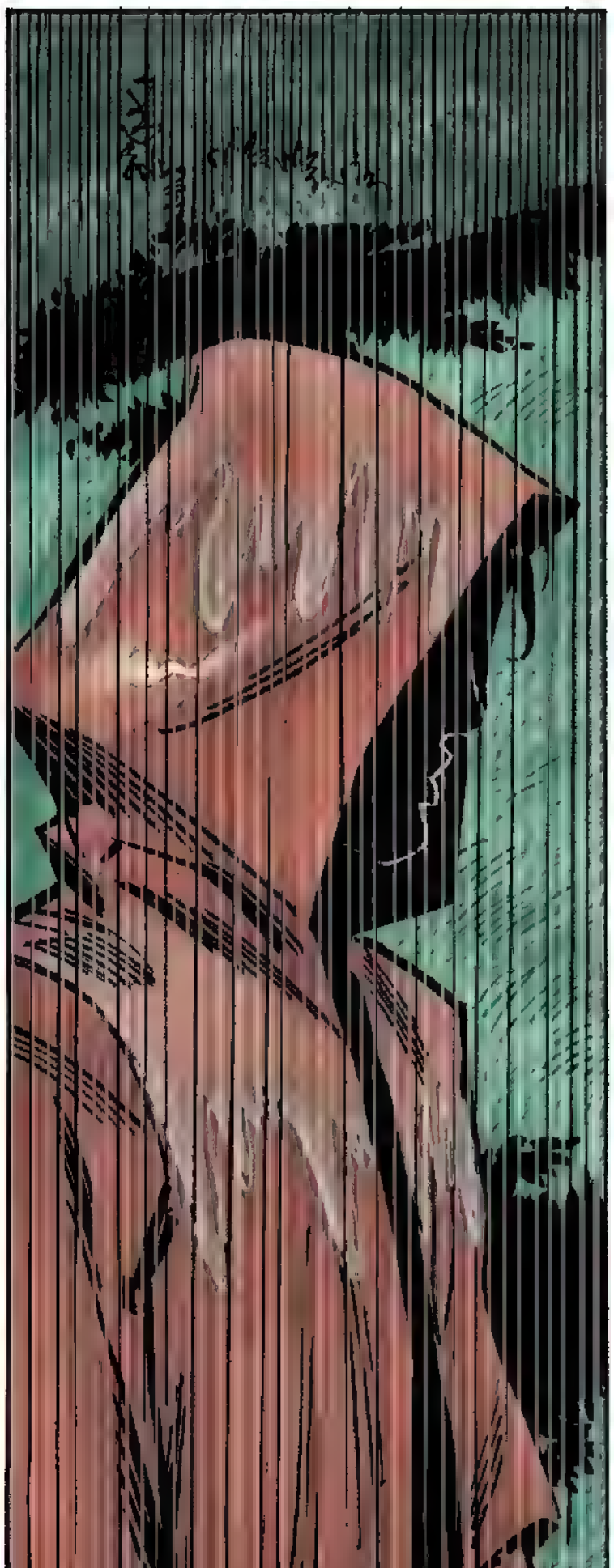
ARRRRGH!

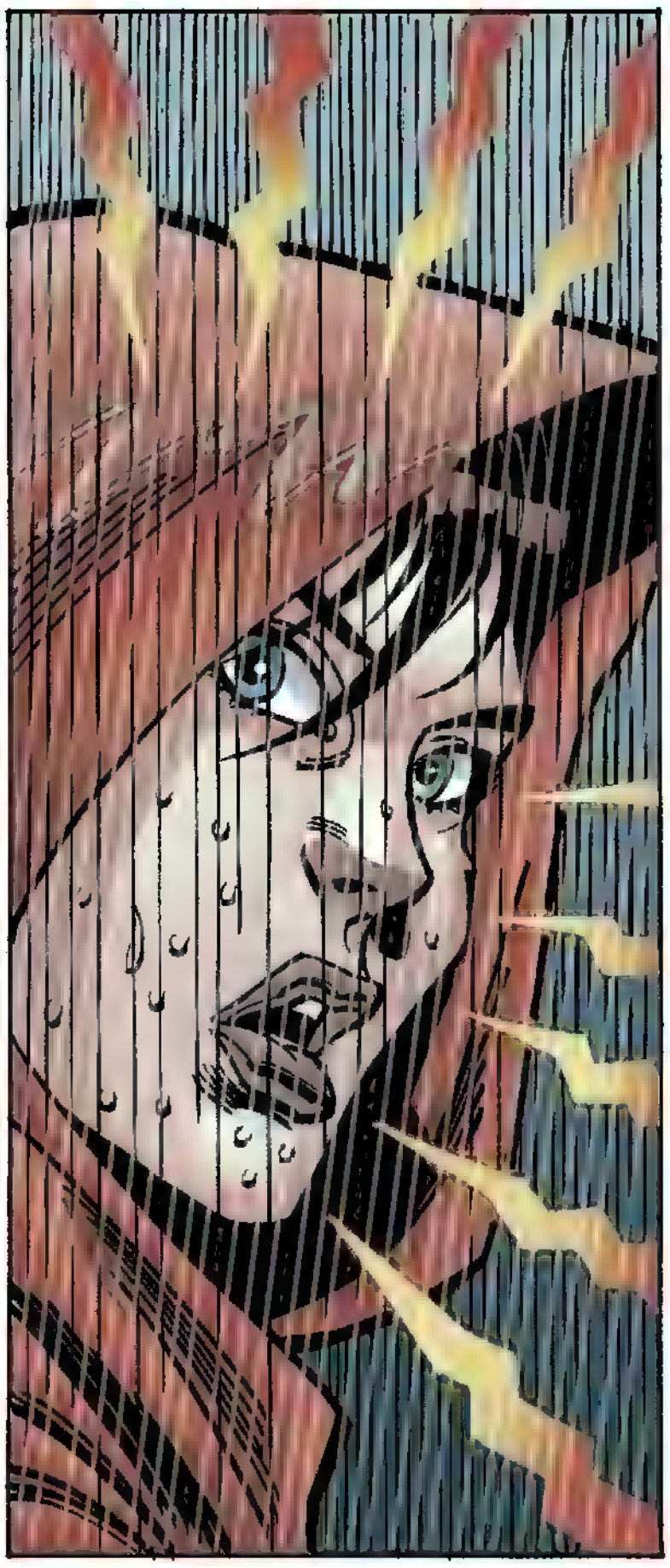
THWAKKK!











Howard, *wait--!*

You women are all alike, Parker.

You just keep *pushing* and *pushing.*

Like my dad always says, it's our job to straighten you out and--

You--

--hurt--

--Courtney.

I-it was her own fault!

She should have minded her own business!

Sandra and I could have worked out our problems if she hadn't gotten between us.

YOU--

--HURT--

--COURTNEY!

That's enough, Moose...

You don't stop violence with more violence.

We have to break the circle.

B-but he deserves to be punished.

Yes, he does...but not by us.

Howard has been *broken* for a very long time.

I honestly don't know if he can ever be *fixed*...

But this isn't just about him anymore.

It's also about you...and how you choose to live your life.

I know you're frustrated now, and you feel powerless about Howard...and so many other things... but you can't let the pain drive you.

You have to choose the kind of man you want to be...

...the kind of man Courtney deserves.

The rain begins to die as Howard continues to sob--

--and it slowly starts to dawn on you--

--that you and Moose have *joined* him.

MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

I'm a writer, not a preacher. An entertainer, not teacher. But too many teenage girls are being brutalized by their so-called boyfriends. Let's all do what we can to stop the circle of violence. To learn more about this great American tragedy, look up teenage dating violence on the Internet and become as horrified as I am.

'Nuff said!
Tom D.

Dear Mayday Mythmakers,

I just wanted to tell you what a great comic you have. Not enough effort is made to reward good work and great products these days, so let this letter break that trend. I've been reading SG for years, way back when she first appeared in WHAT IF...? This comic has always been entertaining, enjoyable and top-notch. Just like the comics were when I was a kid.

When my goddaughter Dani became old enough to read, I introduced her to a comic that I felt would awaken in her the desire to read and to awaken her imagination, much like comics did for me when I was five years old. SPIDER-GIRL did the trick. Now, Dani has about 4 or 5 of her friends reading SG and is eagerly awaiting LAST HERO STANDING. SPIDER-GIRL succeeds where most other comics fail--to awaken a sense of wonder and a yearning to read.

Keep up the good work. I would like for Dani and her friends to continue reading SG for years to come so that one day their kids can discover SPIDER-GIRL the way we did.

Jim Sabrey
Cleveland, Ohio

Thank you for introducing Dani to Spider-Girl, Jim, and please thank her for spreading the faith to her friends!

Dear Spider-Girl team,

I'm pretty new to comic collecting but managed to track down some stuff like J2, WILD THING and GREEN GOBLIN. With these comics I fell in love with both the MC2 universe and Tom DeFalco's writing. But I have to admit, I glossed over SPIDER-GIRL. However, I wandered into my comic shop the other week and discovered they were having a closing down sale. So I looked at the Spider-Man long box and found a whole bunch of SPIDER-GIRL comics. I grabbed them and I haven't put them down, yet. SPIDER-GIRL is filled with comedy, friendship and valuable lessons. This is one comic that I'll be proud to let my kids read without worry. I find it great that this comic is dealing with very important issues like cancer, which has been important to me recently, but doesn't get bogged down to a degree where it seems there is no hope. Comics are meant to inspire hope and you mange to pull that off with every issue.

You now have another fan for the rest of Spider-Girl's run and it's my aim to track down all the back issues. Thanks for this great comic that does everything a comic should do. Long live Spider-Girl!

Liam Johnson

Welcome to the party, Liam! While this particular issue may be a tad troubling, hope is--and always will be--one of the cornerstones of our series.

Hey, Spider-Girl Guys,

Wanted to drop a note and say how much I like the SPIDER-GIRL book. It's been a great surprise and a guilty pleasure of mine for months. It reminds me of every thing that attracted me to the Spider-Man books when I was a kid.

Daniel Schoonmaker
Grand Rapids, Michigan

There's no greater compliment, Daniel!

Dear Marvel,

SPIDER-GIRL #86 had everything that a good comic needs. What a great issue! This story arc is shaping up to be my favorite of the series so far. From May's reaching out to Moose to the intense action sequences, great story, art, dialogue and pacing.

Being a huge Nova fan, it was great to see the MC2 Nova, again. In Tom DeFalco's hands, a Nova series (either the MC2 Nova or the current MU Nova) would be fantastic!

I had a huge smile when I read the panel where Nova got knocked back by the Omega Skrull. What a fantastic homage to the cover of NOVA #3 (v1)! Even the colors were the same! And since Sal Buscema did the inks for the SPIDER-GIRL issue and the art for the NOVA #3 cover, it had to be a nice assignment for Sal, too. The Omega Skrull is a great villain! The way he plowed through most of the MC2 heroes was chilling. I can't wait to see how they take him down!

Doug Smith
Marion, Iowa

We hope you also caught Nova's appearances in LAST HERO STANDING, Doug.

Dear Tom, Ron, Sal and Pals,

First of all, congratulations on Spider-Girl's extension to issue 100! I've loved the title every step of the way. Second, the scene with Moose in SPIDER-GIRL #86 was dripping with realism. My father is a diabetic and had a heart attack several years back. I could so easily relate to the big guy. I think Tom deserves a big hand for putting a scene of such brilliant human feeling amidst the chaos of Apox vs. the MC2 Universe. From Mainframe to J2 to Thunderstrike to Nova to Namor to the Hulk, the action just got more and more intense. Now this is an issue that can take your breath away! I'm glad to see the wider MC2 universe being reintroduced in the buildup to LAST HERO STANDING. Keep 'em coming!

John Dillon
Sedalia, Missouri

Please extend our best wishes to your father, John.

Thanks for being there!
Tom D.

Abuse doesn't have to be just physical—it can be mental, emotional, psychological or spiritual. And it's not only teenage girls who are the victims. Women and men of all ages are suffering abuse at the hands of boyfriends, girlfriends, spouses, relatives, and acquaintances.

Below, you'll find a list of resources you can go to for help and information, whether you're the victim of abuse, a friend or relative of someone being abused, or if you need help to stop hurting someone you love.

Molly

www.ndvh.org National Domestic Violence Hotline (or call 1-800-799-SAFE)

www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence

www.endabuse.org Family Violence Prevention Fund

www.4woman.gov/violence/index.cfm National Women's Health Information Center

www.batteredmen.com MenWeb-Domestic Violence

www.seeitandstopit.org See It And Stop It!

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NEXT ISSUE:

Things get weird!

You escort Howard to the Midtown South Precinct House--

--and a rueful smile knifes across Moose's face as the police read him his rights.

Moose later returns to the Medical Center, and you head for home.

What have you really accomplished today?

Howard will soon be surrounded by his family and lawyers and a system that's as broken as he is.

Perhaps he'll get the help he needs.

Perhaps not.

He isn't your problem anymore.

You have other concerns.

Abuse comes in many forms.

It can be as blatant as a black eye or as subtle as a disapproving glance.

bread

We all feel overwhelmed at times.

Life can be so very huge and complicated and scary.

Luckily, we can share our fears and frustrations--

--and needn't bear them alone.

THE END... for now!